

Figure 1. *Oecobius cellariorum* squashed inside Holy Koran. © Hisham K. El-Hennawy.

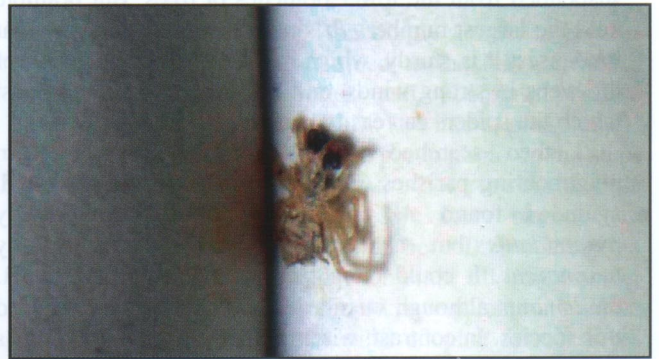


Figure 2. *Oecobius cellariorum* squashed inside Holy Koran. © Hisham K. El-Hennawy.



Figure 3. The squashed *Oecobius cellariorum* from Amman. © Hisham K. El-Hennawy.

***Oecobius cellariorum* Found Squashed Inside the Holy Koran in Jordan**

by Hisham K. El-Hennawy

Last July, I visited Amman, Jordan, my wife's home country. I am accustomed to peruse there a special edition of the Holy Koran, printed in 1952 in Egypt. Its large pages and beautifully handwritten text make it a work of art. Unusually this time I discovered, near the end of the book, a squashed spider between pages 780–781, the end of Al-Qiyamah sura (Resurrection chapter) and the beginning of Al-Insan sura (The human being chapter).

The squashed spider was an adult male *Oecobius*. I photographed it and identified it, after coming back home,

as *Oecobius cellariorum* (Dugès, 1836), a species that I found before in Amman. Both pedipalps were intact and very useful for species identification.

This male *O. cellariorum* from Amman might be more religious than my female *O. navus* spider from Cairo which was found squashed inside a dictionary (El-



Figure 4. The palpal organs of the squashed *Oecobius cellariorum* from Amman. © El-Hennawy.

Hennawy, 2011). *Oecobius cellariorum* is a cosmopolitan species. There is no checklist of the spiders of Jordan, but I know that *Oecobius cellariorum* is abundant in Amman.

During my visit to Amman I was lazy and did not look hard enough for spiders. This squashed male *O. cellariorum* was discovered before returning home to tell me that if the arachnologist did not look for spiders, the spiders should look for him, alive or squashed!

Reference

El-Hennawy, H. K. (2011) *Oecobius navus* found squashed inside a dictionary! *Newsl. Br. arachnol. Soc.*, **121**: 5–6.

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